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63-1668THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

27 FEB 1963

Dear John:

Reference is made to the President's memorandum of 20 February 1963 on the Anzoategui Affair wherein he expressed areas of concern in the handling of such cases.

Within the Department of Defense, the National Military Command Center (NMCC) is the center of military operations. All information which could result in the use of military force should be referred to that center which has procedures for informing the top level DoD decision making officials and for notifying the White House Situation Center.

Although your agency may not have been directly involved in this particular affair, it has indicated that our procedures are not airtight. However, I am informed that your Operations Center has reached an agreement with the NMCC personnel on the procedures to be followed in passing information of interest to our agencies and the White House which might require military action. I believe that if our centers follow these procedures, we can prevent a recurrence of instances such as the one cited by the President and increase the efficiency of our operations.

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Mr. John A. McCone  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

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